



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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### U K R A I N E

#### **Registry of Judicial Decisions to Make Court System More Open and Fair**

On August 3, Acting Chairman of the High Economic Court Serhiy Demchenko, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor, and Director of the Commercial Law Center Valentina Danishevskaya held a press conference on the impact of the recently launched Registry of Judicial Decisions in the High Economic Court. Other attendees included the senior leadership of the High Economic Court of Ukraine, representatives of the press and civil society and USAID.



*Press conference on the Registry of Judicial Decisions in the High Economic Court.*

"The Registry of Judicial Decisions makes economic court practices transparent and accessible to the public through the wide publication of court decisions on the Internet," said U.S. Ambassador Taylor during his welcoming remarks. "The registry will increase the confidence that investors and business leaders have in the courts, and contribute to greater consistency in judicial practice."

The High Economic Court has made available on their website, [www.arbitr.gov.ua/doc.php](http://www.arbitr.gov.ua/doc.php), over 42,000 decisions dating from 2001. The Unified State Registry of Court Decisions was launched on

June 1. During the press conference, participants were given a demonstration of the Registry and its functions, including the use of the search function, High Economic Court decisions by court name, dispute category and subcategories, case number, and date of judicial decision.

The USAID-supported Commercial Law Center project has been helping to develop commercial law in Ukraine and providing assistance to the Economic Courts of Ukraine since 2001. The project's goal is to assist Ukraine in its transition to a market economy through the development of a comprehensive, coherent and efficient commercial law framework that supports and encourages business and investment transactions. The project is implemented by Emerging Markets Group, Ltd.

#### **U.S. Ambassador Visits Donetsk Oblast Children's Sanatorium**

Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor visited the Children's Psycho-Neurological Sanatorium in Donetsk Oblast on August 8, where the Dobrota Charity Foundation, a philanthropic civil society organization, concentrates much of its efforts.



*Ambassador eagerly participates in a round dance with Sanatorium children.*

Ambassador Taylor watched a weekly children's performance put on by 7-10 year-olds from the local community for the young residents of the Sanatorium, who suffer from long-term illnesses.

The Ambassador also met with hospital staff and with leading members of Dobrota. Dobrota Charity Foundation, one of three internationally recognized philanthropic organizations in Ukraine, is a sub-grantee of USAID's UCAN civil society development project. Dobrota's main goal is to promote and implement philanthropic activity in the Donetsk community.

The following day the Ambassador participated in a standing-room-only general press conference for the Donetsk mass media, which was organized by USAID's CURE Press Club.

### **USAID supports competitive journalism in Ukraine**

The Ukrainian Association of Small and Medium Businesses conducted its annual national contest "Journalists for the Middle Class" on July 20 in Kyiv with support from USAID's Commercial Law Project, which has worked extensively with journalists, and another USAID project, the Access to Credit Initiative. The project directors served on the panel of judges.

The Ukrainian Association of Small and Middle Businesses actively supports economic reform. Its chairman, Vasyl Kostytsky, explained that SME growth and an emergent middle class are the main prerequisites for Ukraine's prosperity and well-being.



*Reporters joined in greeting their colleagues.*

As part of the goal of developing a democratic, free market society, the Association promotes the development of the mass media in influencing public opinion and informing attitudes to socio-economic reforms. So far it has held six "Journalists for the Middle Class" media contests. This year's topic was entitled "Affordable Business Loans and Mortgages for the Middle Class".

### **USAID Project Brings Moldovan Expert to Ukraine**

Yuri Calin, an expert consultant from Moldova on cold storage construction and methods of produce storing, spent several weeks in Ukraine during August at the invitation of USAID's Agricultural Marketing Project to provide personal consultation to some Ukrainian producers. Mr. Calin has extensive experience with CNFA Moldova and is considered a unique specialist in storage construction for small and medium-sized farms.

The main objective of Mr. Calin's visit was to assist AMP specialists with preparation of a manual on post-harvest produce handling and storage, which has a target publication date of October 2006. Mr. Calin also visited farmers in Odesa Oblast.



*Yuri Calin (left) consults on storage construction.*

During his stay in Ukraine, Mr. Calin also did an online Q&A segment for the [www.lol.org.ua](http://www.lol.org.ua) website on the subject of cold storage design and construction, conditions for storage and requirements for such buildings.

### **Upcoming Events**

**August 22-23**, BIZPRO, Growth Energy International Investment Forum, Kyiv.

**August 30**, Ukraine Citizen Action Network, Youth theatre performance "Give your hand!" for convicts and penitentiaries' employees of colony #10, Kherson oblast, Daryivka village.

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# MOLDOVA

## New Maternal Center Opens to Assist Mothers and Pregnant Women

On August 10, the Artemida Maternal Center was opened under the USAID Better Opportunities for Women and Youth Project, to assist mothers and pregnant women at risk and in crisis situations. Based in Drochia, the Center is the first of its kind outside the capitol to provide mothers and pregnant women accommodations, medical assistance and psychosocial counseling.



*Maternal Center in Drochia, Moldova.*

With conditions similar to a family home, the shelter seeks to preserve and strengthen the mother-child bond and support the women as they transition back into society. The Artemida Maternal Center can accommodate 10 women at a time and offer assistance to approximately 25 women from the region per year.



*Mother and child settle into their new home at the Artemida Maternal Center.*

In addition to Maternal Centers, the Better Opportunities Project seeks to establish Social Reintegration Centers for Youth to prepare new boarding schools graduates for independent living. Funding for the centers is provided through the United State's \$50 million Anti-Trafficking Initiative.

## New Modern Vegetable Production Site Opens in Orhei with USAID Support

Recently, Vindex Agro, a Moldovan agribusiness, launched a new vegetable production site in the Orhei district of Moldova. The new site and improved employee conditions are the result of the successful cooperative effort between USAID and Vindex Agro to increase opportunities for Moldovan agribusinesses and create jobs in rural settings.



*Employees of Vindex Agro show off their vegetables.*

Using modern technologies, the site is expected to increase the company's sales of fresh vegetables by up to 40%. Moreover, 20 employees of the new site received training in production and harvesting; eight new jobs were created; and all employees received a 20% wage increase.

## Upcoming Events

**August 25,** Agribusiness Development Project, Domestic Study Tour: Familiarization with New Table Grape Production Technology.

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